

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. (Marked up claims are appended).

c1 1. A pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives comprising a microorganism culture precipitate which contains at least 3 mass % carotenoid compounds prepared by a process of concentration by centrifugation or filtration and drying, with leaving the cell membrane and cell wall intact.)

c2 2. The pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives according to claim 1, wherein at least 40 mass % of the carotenoid compounds is astaxanthin.

c3 3. The pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives according to claim 1, wherein a DNA nucleotide sequence corresponding to 16S ribosomal RNA of the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate has at least 98% homology with the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

4. The pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives according to claim 3, wherein the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate is E-396 strain or a mutant thereof.

5. The pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives according to claim 2, wherein a DNA nucleotide sequence corresponding to 16S ribosomal RNA of the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate has at least 98% homology with the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

C3 6. The pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives according to claim 5, wherein the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate is E-396 strain or a mutant thereof.

Please add the following new claim:

11. A pigment-containing cellular substance for feed additives prepared by a process according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- C4
- a) adding water to the precipitate removed from the culture medium;
 - b) suspending the precipitate; and
 - c) separation of the precipitate to remove dissolved medium ingredients prior to the drying step.
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